

including contractor's staff, providing interest free advance for procurement of required plants and machinery, continuous and regular monitoring of the programme.

**Uneven development of network
under PMGSY**

1009. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a road network of over 33 lakh kms., and its distribution is highly uneven, as certain parts of the country boast of modern expressways, there are other parts that are still inaccessible throughout the year;

(b) whether progress report of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) shows that there has been no significant progress in new road connectivity under the scheme; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve India's road network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Rural road is a State subject. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a special intervention by the Central Government to provide connectivity by way of an all weather road to all unconnected habitations with a population of 500 and above [250+population size in Hill States, Desert Areas and Tribal (Schedule V) Areas]. About 1,72,787 habitations are to be connected and total length to be covered is 3,73,145 km. at a cost of about Rs. 1,32,000 crore. Under Bharat Nirman, Government has set a goal to provide connectivity to all villages with a population of 1000 (500 in the case of hilly or tribal areas) with an all weather road by 2009. So far, projects valued at Rs. 42582.19 crore to connect 60556 habitations having 2,16,950.58 km. road length has been approved and Rs. 21210.91 crore has been released. 33041 habitations have been provided connectivity and construction of 111461.04 km. of road has been completed. A sum of Rs. 19040.95 crore has been spent so far under the programme.